

March 8, 2016

RE: SB 393 An Act Concerning Domestic Workers

Chairman Gomes, Chairman Tercyak, Sen. Hwang, Rep. Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Christopher LaRiviere and I am the Executive Director of Franciscan Ever There Care, a faith based non-profit Homemaker Companion Agency located in Meriden CT.

I submit this written testimony to you today in strong opposition to SB 393. The language of SB 393 attempts to protect domestic workers who are privately and directly hired by a family. We are any employer based agency and are mandated to follow and abide by all pertinent Connecticut labor laws.

I find many of the items raised in this Bill to be over reaching and potentially devastating to the Home Care Industry.

1. **Overtime for the 7th day worked:** Many of our clients require continuous short time frames of care to remain as safe and independent, often requiring 2 hrs of assistance each day for each day of the week. No other industry would be obligated to pay overtime on the 7th day of work, when only 12 other hours were worked within a given week.
2. **Impact to State funded programs:** This section seems quite overtly unfair as an Agency already providing protections under the law would suffer further financial ramifications while those families who privately provide none of the protections need not comply.
3. **Employee privacy:** Our caregivers or domestic workers are placed in OUR clients home's based upon an agreement that the Agency and the client have entered into. I find it ludicrous that it is proposed that I would not be able to enter the client's home to visit with that client, make a quality assurance check on my employee or deliver any needed items to that employee, if I first did not have written and expressed permission from that employee.
4. **Written Notice of Termination:** If you have ever worked with the elderly, one thing you will know is that their overall status can be in a state of constant flux. We change and

adapt to those changes as they arise. None of those changes are things that can be foreseen, anticipated or scheduled. Many times, these clients are hospitalized, require intensive rehabilitation or sadly even pass away. I don't know how anyone could anticipate any of these things happening much less give their caregiver 14 days' notice of the happening or even worse, be liable to pay them for that 2 week period even though their services were no longer required.

I would ask that all third party employer based Agencies be carved out of this Bill

Respectfully Submitted

Christopher LaRiviere
Executive Director
Franciscan Ever There Care